

Illinois Sheriffs' Association

Champions of Local Government

P.O. Box 263 • Sherman, Illinois 62684 • (217) 496-2371 • FAX (217) 496-2373

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August 12, 1993

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Legal Advisor

JOSEPH C. MUDD
Legislative Consultant

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St. Clair County

Sheriff John Bliven
McDonough County

Sheriff George P. Shadid
Peoria County

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary:

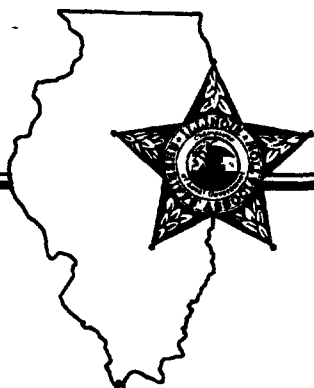
On August 8, 1993 at the semi-annual Sheriff's Training Conference, a long discussion was held concerning FCC NPRM 92-235. Our basic understanding is that this proposal would require downsizing frequency ranges from 25 mhz to 12.5 mhz by 1996 and then to 6.25 mhz by 2004. This would require replacement or major modification of most radio equipment existing today.

Another major concern is the proposal to lower the heights of existing antennas and reduce the amount of transmitting power. Many Illinois counties are rural in nature. They cover large geographical areas with small populations. Many counties provide the dispatching services for the entire public safety field. (i.e. police, fire, EMS) The above mentioned reduction would require a major infraction change such as additional dispatching centers or simulcasting.

Another concern is the proposed change in the rules that would place all different types of users under one coordinator. Public safety communication is in many instances the life line between the responder and all the resources at their disposal in an emergency situation. It demands the special attention of experts in the public safety field to insure the continual flow of vital information.

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In conclusion, we believe that the above mentioned proposals would require counties to spend vast amount of monies. The majority of counties are already financially strapped. The proposal would in effect be another federal mandate without any funding. Therefore, the Illinois Sheriff's Association goes on record opposing these changes. We hope that the FCC will consider how devastating these proposals would be to our counties.

Yours truly,

Steven R. Allendorf
President
Illinois Sheriff's
Association

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